



LAW

Program Goal

The Law Department provides effective legal services to the mayor and City Council, city manager, departments and advisory boards; interprets and enforces city, state and federal laws as they pertain to city services and activities; and effectively administers and prosecutes criminal cases filed in Phoenix Municipal Court using the prosecutorial function and discretion in a fair, impartial and efficient manner.

Budget Allowance Explanation

The Law Department 2004-05 operating budget allowance of \$19,625,000 is \$481,000 or 2.5 percent more than 2003-04 estimated expenditures. The increase is due to inflationary adjustments offset by budget reductions that include the elimination of a part-time typist II position and holding an attorney IV position vacant. As part of this reduction, the Law Department will also begin charging enterprise funds for time spent on employment cases handled by the Personnel Unit of the department. Enterprise funds that will be charged

include Aviation, Civic Plaza, Development Services, Golf, Solid Waste, Water and Wastewater.

The Law Department 2004-05 budget for court awards funds provides for computerized legal research (\$32,000), criminal justice training (\$4,000) and computer programming including ongoing technical support for the Criminal Division's case management system (\$120,000).

Expenditure and Position Summary

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Operating Expense	\$18,724,000	\$19,144,000	\$19,625,000
Total Positions	237.3	245.3	245.0
Source of Funds:			
General	\$17,744,000	\$18,087,000	\$18,573,000
Court Awards	139,000	146,000	152,000
Grant Funds	841,000	911,000	797,000
Other Restricted Funds	—	—	103,000

Law Department Major Performance Measures and Service Trends

The following significant performance measures and service trends will be achieved with the 2004-05 budget allowance:

	2002-03	2003-04*	2004-05
Criminal cases sent to diversion**	7,371	3,800	4,000
Pre-trial disposition conferences set	58,242	59,000	60,000
New civil cases opened in the fields of condemnation, collection, taxes and civil litigation, excluding liability and other cases assigned to outside counsel	925	775	800
Number of defendants submitted for charging review	50,866	46,000	47,000
Number of civil cases closed, including those assigned to outside counsel and handled through the alternative dispute resolution process***	482	850	600
Ordinances and resolutions for City Council adoption drafted and reviewed	1,130	880	1,000
Number of jury trials prosecuted	383	375	400

*Based on 10 months actual experience.

**Beginning in 2003-04 fewer defendants are signing up for diversion programs as a result of a newly instituted post-plea agreement which states that non-completion of a program results in an automatic guilty plea of the charged offense.

***The number of cases anticipated to be closed in 2003-04 increased due to a one-time concentrated effort to reduce the existing caseload.